

ABSTRACT

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

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In a multi-protocol label switched communications network, communications sessions are established on respective label switched paths each encapsulated within an existing label switched path between a start node and a destination node. The communications session is established by sending a path setup message from the start node to the 15 destination node. The path set up message incorporates an explicit route object containing a tunnel identifier for the existing label switched path and an extended tunnel identifier specifying the label switched path for the communications session.